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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography lists 148 fiction and nonfiction books for third-grade readers of varied reading levels. Many of the books, however, are suitable for a wide variety of ages, and many picture books are also included. The bibliography contains short chapter books, novels for third-grade readers by popular authors such as Beverly Cleary and Laura Ingalls Wilder, and several older classics. Many forms of work are represented in the books, and many types of workers and different jobs are depicted. A literature review preceding the bibliography discusses many of the books listed, as well as the role of work in education and the importance of career education as it relates to children's literature. Contains 11 references. (KC)

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A STUDY OF WORK IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

By

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ED 408 495

This annotated bibliography provides descriptions of over one hundred books for young readers that depict many types of workers and their work. This study began when N. Faye Angel and Marianne Mooney investigated School-to-Work projects and conducted a pilot program in Virginia in 1996. They found that elementary age students often lack knowledge about careers and the value of work, that few children can list a job held by their own family members. Although School-to-Work programs focus primarily on middle and secondary school students, and younger children are not ready to begin selecting their future careers, in the elementary years they do need to be aware of the world of work, to become familiar with many types of jobs performed by ordinary people, and to appreciate the qualities of successful workers. Elementary teachers and librarians who are eager to help their students explore these themes through good books will find useful resources in this bibliography.

Angel and Mooney (1997) developed a seven-step program for integrating career and work activities into the elementary curriculum. They tested fourteen activities in third-grade classrooms in Roanoke, Virginia. As an alternative to traditional "Career Day" presentations that are too limited or uninteresting, this new program involves students in hands-on activities and individual research with the help of teachers, guidance counselors, parents and other members of the community. As they become aware of numerous career and work opportunities, students produce materials to place in Individual Career Development Portfolios. The focus is not on career exploration or preparation, but on developing an understanding of why and how people work, and on expanding self-awareness by identifying interests, abilities, preferences, and current work skills in relation to careers. The competencies emphasized, such as working within a team, being able to listen, and learning to collect and synthesize information, are based on the Standards of Learning for third grade in Virginia and the Department of Labor's SCANS report (Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills, 1991).

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Successful implementation of programs like this depends on integrating career awareness projects with other daily classroom activities and curriculum goals—with lessons in writing, art, science, social studies and, of course, reading. As Masha K. Rudman writes in Children's Literature: An Issues Approach, "Reading, one of the most important areas of instruction in the schools, has emerged as a critical tool in developing the skills of independent and responsible critical thinking and behavior" when children are encouraged to explore and evaluate the world around them, learning to become better decisionmakers (1995, p. 2). Reading aloud, writing projects, and book reports are recommended in Angel and Mooney's program. Students collect pictures and information from magazines, interviews, videos, and the Internet, as well as reading books about work.

The annotated bibliography focuses on fiction and nonfiction for third grade readers, but reading abilities of individual third graders vary widely and most of these books will interest younger and older readers as well. Many picture books are included, not only because some children will be reading below grade level, but because the multitudes of fascinating picture books published in recent years appeal to readers of all ages. "No book of quality is too simple for any age level" (Rudman, 1995, p. xi). Complex skills are involved in analyzing the integration of different styles of text and illustration in picture books, making them especially relevant in units of study that emphasize research, multimedia studies, and interdisciplinary topics (Hanlon & Teaford, 1996). The bibliography contains many types of illustrated books—including some that require little or no reading, as well as short chapter books, novels for third grade readers by popular authors like Beverly Cleary and Laura Ingalls Wilder, and several older classics. Reading a short book or passage with or without illustrations can provide a springboard for class discussion and other activities, while other books will be read over longer periods of time. A wide variety of books is needed for different reading situations—adults reading to or with children, students reading to younger children, classes reading together, and teachers recommending books to individual students.

Many forms of work are represented in these books. Since children enter school being most familiar with the social units of the family and neighborhood, many books for young readers describe families sharing in the essential tasks of housework, gardening, and child care; some depict different generations interacting in their work within and outside the home, and show how

adults and young people integrate their jobs with their family lives. A 1997 Caldecott Honor book shows a young boy enjoying his pre-dawn work as a paperboy and returning home to rest when everyone else is getting up (Pilkey, 1996). Children work hard to help their favorite adult neighbors in Miss Tizzy (Gray & Rowland, 1993) and Chicken Sunday (Polacco, 1992). Learning the benefits of cooperation among families and neighbors leads to good relations in the work place, and illustrates the importance of community help in times of economic need, as demonstrated in books like The Rag Coat (Mills,1991).

While some books depict children helping with household chores and working at part-time jobs, the primary work of children consists of playing and going to school. I'm Busy, Too (Simon & Leder, 1980) compares the active days of children and teachers in preschool with the work of parents in their homes and businesses. Sometimes childhood play leads to a lifelong avocation. Although it was not written for a children's book, a short article from The New Yorker called "Lego" (1991) would be fun to share with elementary students because it explains how Francie Berger became "perhaps the most satisfied worker in the history of employment." She loved Lego bricks so much as a child that she studied architecture, persuaded the Lego company to hire her, and later convinced Lego to open an American design division, enabling her to supervise the building of large display models from her Connecticut office.

Angel and Mooney's program includes games adapted to learning about careers, and also class discussion about the connections between being a good student and a good worker. Qualities such as punctuality, following directions, neatness of appearance, observing safety rules, teamwork, and accepting individual differences are stressed so that students recognize the transfer of skills and expectations between school and the working world. The 1996 Caldecott Medal winner, Officer Buckle and Gloria (Rathmann, 1995), dramatizes several of these principles comically; the police officer isn't very effective when he lectures to students about safety tips, and mishaps occur in the school until Officer Buckle and the dog Gloria work as a team to generate a more lively interest in safety rules. In a more serious manner, many nonfiction books about workers, including biographies and autobiographies, emphasize that family support and a good education contribute to successful careers.

Proponents of School-to-Work programs have been arguing that our recent emphasis on sending more high school graduates to college has led to the neglect of effective career training for

the large proportion of high school graduates (estimates range from one quarter to one half) who will not go to college. Society's focus on the college degree as a requirement for a lucrative career has also created a crisis in higher education, with more students entering college who lack the motivation, work habits, and basic skills required to succeed in advanced academic work or in professional internships available through many college programs. Articles appear weekly in newspapers and magazines pointing out that employers need more workers with the abilities required to perform skilled labor as well as professional jobs. Marsh and Horns-Marsh (1997) observe, "Today, schools must not only develop skills and dispense facts and knowledge but, more and more, introduce young people into the world of work and commerce. We [American educators] attempt to accomplish these goals within a common educational structure, and we are discovering that these activities enrich and enhance each other." Davis (1997) argues that School-to-Work reforms will not succeed if they result in narrowly defined programs that give students career passports or skills certificates without truly guaranteeing a sold foundation in entry-level work skills, but that the "new vocationalism" movement could improve public education if it provides "increased academic rigor" and broad-based programs that do not restrict students' career choices. While the fate of School-to-Work programs and other educational movements will surely shift and evolve into different forms in different places as today's young children approach high school and post-secondary training, one reality underlying these current debates about public education and career preparation is that students in the early grades need to develop good work habits and basic skills, along with awareness of the multitudes of choices and demands encountered in the working world.

Thus, while compiling this bibliography the authors sought to include books with as much variety as possible in the types of workers and different jobs depicted. As many authors in the second half of the twentieth century have sought to provide children with positive literary images of realistic families and communities, there are growing numbers of good books that show people of all socioeconomic levels taking pride in their work. It is important for children to find such books because, although some television shows have broken with tradition by depicting the lives of working class families (usually portraying them comically), the norm in television, films and advertising has been to feature fictional characters and real people with the most glamorous and lucrative jobs. The "ordinary" American family in television dramas and situation comedies has

almost always been supported comfortably by one, or more recently two, upper middle class breadwinners. Angel and Mooney's research found that, if left to their own preferences in activities such as collecting pictures of people working, most students select doctors, lawyers, singers, and basketball players. Teachers are advised to minimize but not exclude such examples as students work on career awareness projects. It is important to avoid crushing a student's dreams, imagination, and ambition while also instilling more realistic perspectives on career opportunities. For example, children who insist they will be professional ball players when they don't even have access to the type of ball needed to practice their favorite sport need to start learning about other types of rewarding work.

If children attracted to hero worship and high ambitions read books about real performers, sports stars, astronauts, political leaders and artists, they will discover that most have had to take risks, make sacrifices, and overcome hardships on the road to success. Writers and illustrators for children often write about their work, and many enjoy visiting classrooms to explain their artistic methods and answer students' questions. Such encounters often reveal that the famous author or illustrator is a real person with humble beginnings and family responsibilities, who has worked long hours producing art, either with no guarantee of getting paid for it, or with contracts that require intensive labor to meet deadlines and satisfy editors. The Philharmonic Gets Dressed is an amusing picture book showing that an orchestra consists of individuals who must get dressed, leave their families at home, and get to work on time like anyone else (Kuskin & Simont, 1982). Books about affluent and famous people also emphasize that work brings various types of fulfillment, and commercial success isn't always the most important. Although we often hear that the majority of Americans believe more money would improve their lives, most successful people find their way by following their hearts and their desire to make a contribution to society, rather than setting out to acquire wealth. Two Piano Tuners demonstrates that for the child to develop her natural talent and interest in piano tuning is more important than becoming the celebrated pianist on stage who benefits from the tuner's work (Goffstein, 1970).

The bibliography also includes books about workers in factories, post offices, shops and restaurants who take pride in their labor and affect the lives of others positively. Many books about farming show children and adults working hard side by side, while more books are being written about city workers as well. Some of the more realistic contemporary books show how

families are affected by difficult changes in jobs or inadequate income, but most books for young readers retain a hopeful outlook as the human spirit triumphs over adversity and meaningful work enriches lives. In The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey (Wojciechowski & Lynch), a gloomy widower is brought back to life as he skillfully carves a nativity scene ordered by a widow and her son. Lesser known jobs of many kinds are also revealed when students read about how books and other products are made, since almost everything in modern society is produced by the work of a variety of laborers. Lessons in any subject area can be enhanced by emphasizing the different types of workers who make contributions in every area of life. As the bibliography indicates, many of the nonfiction books listed represent recent series that focus on specific areas of biography, social studies, or science, leading readers to many other volumes that introduce different types of people and their work.

Books are included that show men and women working in nontraditional roles, and workers are depicted in the context of varied cultural backgrounds. Men work in the home and teach boys and girls to cook, sew, farm, or tune pianos, while mothers may run a diner, a lighthouse, or a social reform movement. In We Build a Climber (Phang & Roth, 1986), Nancy the carpenter donates her work to a school in memory of her mother. Margaret B. Miller (1994, 1997) has conducted extensive research on working mothers in literature for children kindergarten through sixth grade, finding only 157 books published since 1977 that contain working mothers in contemporary American settings (less than 1% of all books published). Miller and others have also observed that minorities are underrepresented in children's books. In the past several decades more books have appeared that depict African American and Native American families and workers. Books by and about members of minorities such as Asian Americans and Latinos are harder to find, but more books in all these categories are being published as authors and educators strive to provide children with realistic and unbiased portraits of America's multicultural society. Books with historical settings are also included so that students can read about the types of labor and dedication required to settle the land, fight injustice, and run a home or community in the past. Some of the most heart-warming books show older family members or friends teaching children about their cultural heritage and traditional crafts. Grandmother Five Baskets (Larabee & Sawyer, 1993) is one of the best examples of a story focusing directly on the work ethic and culturally specific rites of passage, as a modern Native American mother tells her daughter how she learned

to finish the long task of making her traditional five baskets. In books like Tar Beach (Ringgold, 1991) and My Great Aunt Arizona (Houston & Lamb, 1992), young people take pride in the contributions their hard-working older relatives made to their communities in urban and rural environments.

Cassie's imaginary flights over the city in Tar Beach also illustrate the innovative blends of realism and fantasy found in many contemporary books. Nonfiction and realistic stories are obviously most relevant to career awareness projects, but the bibliography includes examples of fantasy and folktales because they also reflect society's attitudes about work. Many literary critics have defended fantasy against charges of irrelevance and frivolity by examining the threads of realism and social consciousness interwoven throughout well-written fantasies of all kinds. For example, Charlotte's Web (White, 1980), one of the most popular American fantasies of the twentieth century, has a realistic farm setting and a loyal, hard-working spider as a heroine.

Although we tend to think of storytelling as leisure-time entertainment, many storytellers and editors remind us that in the past folktales and other stories were often passed on orally while people of all ages were working together. From the nursery story "The Little Red Hen" to the Arthurian legend The Kitchen Knight (Hodges & Hyman, 1990), there are many traditional tales that reveal the value of humble work. Some comic folktales and modern stories allow us to laugh at bumbling workers like the husband in The Man who Kept House (Hague & Hague, 1981) and the literal-minded maid Amelia Bedelia (Parish & Siebel, 1963). Many other folktales and fairy tales may seem to contain unrealistic wish fulfillment fantasies. However, although heroes in traditional tales usually get magical help and lavish rewards in the end, they often begin as underdogs forced into servitude, or as humble laborers who prove themselves through their willingness to help needy people or their ability to undertake arduous tasks. The hero of the Appalachian Jack Tales is a young Everyman who is sometimes lazy, foolish, and incredibly lucky, but he is braver and more diligent than his brothers in stories like Jack and the Fire Dragon (Haley, 1988). C. P. Gutierrez (1978) has noted "the frequent linking of the idea of luck with the need for work, thinking, perseverance, and kindness instead of only with chance" in the Jack Tale tradition. In the society reflected in these tales, "farm chores cannot be neglected without actually threatening one's own survival. Quick thinking is obviously an asset. Cooperation is important, and personality traits such as kindness and generosity make cooperation easier." Fanny's Dream

(Buehner & Buehner, 1996) is a very appealing story in which the heroine reluctantly gives up her more extravagant Cinderella dreams and has a good family life with the ordinary man she marries. He helps her realize that she has skills suited to farm life rather than high society, while the text and illustrations also show that imagination and fairy tales still have a place in the lives of hard-working people.

Thoughtful reading of many kinds of books from biographies to fairy tales helps students see beyond the celebrity images and high profile careers glamorized in the popular media to realize that success in all walks of life involves diligence, determination, and integrity, and that there are many kinds of rewarding jobs available for good workers. Students can learn about these realities not only from informational books designed to teach them about careers and successful people, but from all kinds of literature. It is important to remember that most of the books listed below are works of art first, not just teaching tools. Like all literature they reflect our basic values and experiences—including the fundamental human activity of work—and we can learn much from them. But they should not be treated as convenient aids for teaching children about jobs or any other narrowly defined subject. Many authors dread the appearance of their books on lists that label them according to social issues for purposes of education or bibliotherapy, because the literary value of stories may be overlooked when they are used primarily to teach other subjects. Rudman refers to examination of social issues in literature as a "valuable adjunct to literary study," pointing out that "books that are not obviously didactic are the most potent" (1995, pp. 2, 3). There are many ways that careful study of literature can help children become good thinkers and workers. For example, Chet Raymo (1996) argues that successful scientists need the same qualities cultivated by reading fantasy and other imaginative literature, such as curiosity and the ability to ask probing questions. As schools have integrated both literature and experiential learning across the curriculum in recent years, and the children's book market has grown tremendously, writers and illustrators of imaginative literature and nonfiction have produced many fascinating new books that appeal to readers of all ages, while educators have developed creative ways to blend the enjoyment and challenges of reading with the study of other important subjects. The books described in this bibliography illustrate the variety of books available to help elementary school children compare different types of work and develop their appreciation for the qualities of successful workers.

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Aliki. (1963). The story of Johnny Appleseed. New York: Aladdin/Simon and Schuster.

Aliki's easy text and simple drawings show how John Chapman walked from Massachusetts to the West, helping pioneers, telling stories, befriending wildlife, making peace with Indians, and planting trees.

Aliki. (1986). How a book is made. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell.

In a format similar to a comic book, Aliki's animal characters illustrate the work of all the people needed to make a book, from author-artist to printer to salesperson.

Angelou, M., & Courtney-Clarke, M. (1994). My painted house, my friendly chicken, and me. New York: Clarkson N. Potter.

A Ndebele girl in South Africa tells about the social life of her village, including women's work and crafts. Bright photographs and drawings accompany her brief but lively story.

Anholt, L., & Robins, A. (1995). Knee-high Norman. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick.

In this humorous easy-to-read story, a pipsqueak giant is too small to help his brothers, Fee, Fi, Fo, and Fum, build castles. When they complain that he doesn't help with the heavy work and he leaves them, they learn that they need his brains and his brilliant designs to build a castle that will stand tall and beautiful.

Atwater, R., & Atwater, F. (1938). Mr. Popper's penguins. Boston: Little, Brown.

This wonderful classic remains a favorite of children of all ages. When Mr. Popper cannot support his family, he goes on tour with performing penguins. The penguins make him a lot of money, but many decisions have to be made about the kind of work they will do. Mr. Popper's decisions are not based on money, but on honesty and what is best for the birds.

Averill, E. (1960). The fire cat. New York: Harper & Row.

Pickles was always in trouble and Mrs. Goodkind did not think she could handle him any longer. He was given to the Fire Chief, and became an important member of the Rescue Squad because of his hard work. Pickles enjoyed helping people more than he enjoyed being in trouble. A good book for students reading below third grade level.

Barbour, K. (1987). Little Nino's Pizzeria. New York: Harcourt.

The very simple text and bright colors in this Reading Rainbow book show a boy helping his

father in a restaurant and giving extra food to the homeless. Later the boy is in the way at a bigger restaurant and then the father decides he would rather open a little restaurant where he can make pizza with Tony's help.

Beard, D. B., & Kelly, L. (1995). The pumpkin man from Piney Creek. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Hattie works hard beside her father in the pumpkin patch as they harvest all 100 pumpkins to sell later in the day. Her greatest desire is to keep one pumpkin to make into a jack-o'-lantern, but there is none to spare. In spite of this disappointment and the back-breaking work, Hattie carefully picks, rolls, and shoves the pumpkins. There is a pleasant ending.

Bendick, J. (1979). Putting the sun to work. Champaign, IL: Garrard Publishing.

This book shows that work is not just important for people, but that work is a part of nature. Explanations are given for how the sun works to provide energy that can be changed into heat and light, wind and weather, and chemicals to grow plants.

Berenstain, S., & Berenstain, J. (1984). Mama's new job. New York: Random House.

Although Mama is very busy, she is encouraged to start her own quilt business. Mama's new job changes many things around the house. Everyone pitches in to help with tasks Mama always did. The family is very proud of everything that Mama has accomplished. This book is appropriate for third graders reading below grade level.

Best, C., & Daly, N. (1995). Red light, green light, mama and me. New York: Orchard Books.

An African American child takes the train downtown to spend the day at the public library, helping her mother who is a children's librarian.

Brown, M. (1983). Arthur's thanksgiving. Boston: Little, Brown.

Arthur is responsible for directing a play about Thanksgiving. He encounters and solves many problems while working to organize a successful performance. His biggest problem is convincing someone to play the turkey, but his solution "brings the house down."

Brown, M. (1990). Arthur's pet business. Boston: Little, Brown.

Arthur must prove he can be responsible before his parents will allow him to get a puppy. He decides to open a business caring for other people's pets to prove his responsibility. The ups and downs of running a business, and the rewards for hard work are illustrated.

Buehner, C., & Buehner, M. Fanny's Dream. New York: Dial.

Fanny Agnes has Cinderella dreams but she reluctantly marries Heber Jensen after he convinces her that she has skills suited for farm work rather than aristocratic life. Landmarks in their fulfilling but sometimes difficult family life are set against Fanny's fairy tale dreams in this amusing and poignant picture book.

Bunting, E., & Himler, R. (1994). A day's work. New York: Clarion Books.

Francisco, a young Mexican American boy, lies about having experience with landscaping to help his migrant worker grandfather get a job. When they make mistakes and end up putting in two days' work with no pay, Francisco discovers that even though the old man cannot speak English, he has something even more valuable to teach about hard work and integrity.

Burnett, F. H. (1988). The secret garden. New York: Knopf. (Original work published 1911)

The main characters are neglected rich children who need to be out working in the garden to restore their minds and bodies to health. They are helped by a gruff but good-hearted old gardener and the Sowerby family, an idealized portrait of a loving farm mother and her hard-working, wholesome children. This classic novel, available in a variety of editions including this one illustrated by Ruth Sanderson, is well worth reading to elementary children, even if they aren't ready to read a long novel alone.

Burnett, F. H., & Cady, H. Spring cleaning. (1992). New York: Derrydale Books.

In this illustrated reprint of one of Burnett's stories, a rather cranky fairy, Queen Crosspatch, explains how the fairies work to spruce up nature in spring. They help a poor but cheerful vicar's daughter, age 8, when she needs primroses during a difficult English spring.

Burton, V. L. (1943). Katy and the big snow. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Katy the tractor does many jobs for the city; when she plows everyone out during the big snow, readers learn the importance of many city workers. Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel (1939) is a similar popular picture book by Burton.

Career discovery encyclopedia. (1990). Chicago: Ferguson Publishing.

This six-volume set describes and illustrates hundreds of jobs, providing job descriptions, salaries, educational and training requirements, sources of further information, and other pertinent facts. Every elementary school could benefit from this collection.

Carle, E. (1987). A house for hermit crab. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Colorful pictures show hermit spending months building a house in a shell that is comfortable and attractive, only to find that he has outgrown it and must start the process again. But he understands that having been successful before, with some hard work he will again have a wonderful home. An excellent choice for those reading below third grade level.

Carpenter, J., & DiMeglio, S. (1988). Pat Riley. Bloomington, MN: Abdo & Daughters.

Biographies like this one are great for showing the hard work and individual qualities that are needed to become successful. Pat Riley has the ability to create a work environment where his champion L.A. Lakers can flourish, and can be respected as players and individuals. There are other basketball biographies by the same authors.

Cleary, B. (1984). Ramona forever. New York: Dell Yearling.

Ramona is in third grade when she and her older sister learn to stay home alone after school; while her father struggles to finish college and find a new job, their mother has to quit her job to have a new baby. All the popular Ramona novels are realistic yet extremely amusing as they deal with family responsibilities, school and neighbors, and sibling rivalry. Ramona and Her Father (1977) and Ramona and Her Mother (1979) also show how the parents' employment problems affect the family.

Cooney, B. (1982). Miss Rumphius. New York: Viking.

This well-loved picture book celebrates the life of Great-aunt Alice Rumphius. As a child she resolved to travel to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and follow her grandfather's admonition to help make the world more beautiful. The old lady fulfills her final dream when she works hard to plant blooming lupines around her little seacoast village.

Cooney, B. (1988). Island boy. New York: Puffin.

Cooney's folk art illustrations and text follow the life story of Matthias on Tibbets Island, Maine. From childhood to his death as an old grandfather early in the twentieth century, Matthias engages in many kinds of work, following a traditional life of farming and sailing.

COPS-PIC. (1995). San Diego: EdiTS.

This picture inventory of careers requires no reading and depicts people in actual job activities. It uses realistic pictures of people of all types and ages in non-stereotyped roles.

COPS-PIC is appropriate for all ages from elementary to adult.

Cummings, P. (1992). Talking with artists: Conversations with Victoria Chess, Pat Cummings, Leo and Diane Dillon, Richard Egielski, Lois Ehlert, Lisa Campbell Ernst, Tom Feelings, Steven Kellogg, Jerry Pinkney, Amy Schwartz, Lane Smith, Chris Van Allsburg, and David Wiesner (2nd ed.). New York: Bradbury Press.

In Pat Cummings' discussions with fellow picture book artists they talk about their early art experiences, answer children's most frequently asked questions, and offer encouragement to aspiring artists. In volume 2 (1995), Cummings talks with Thomas B. Allen, Mary Jane Begin, Floyd Cooper, Julie Downing, Denise Fleming, Sheila Hamanaka, Kevin Henkes, William Joyce, Maira Kalman, Deborah Nourse Lattimore, Brian Pinkney, Vera B. Williams and David Wisniewski.

dePaola, T. (1993). Tom. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

The focus is the relationship between Tommie and his grandfather, Tom, who share a sense of humor. There is a large section about Tommie helping in his grandfather's butcher shop. Tommie gets to assist with such jobs as running the grinding machine and preparing chickens for sale. A good picture book for students reading below grade level.

Dewey, A. (1987). Gib Morgan: Oilman. New York: Greenwillow.

This is a delightful account of the exaggerated work antics of Gib Morgan. The colorful illustrations show men and women working to get oil out of the ground—even on top of Pike's Peak. Excellent book for students reading below grade level.

DeWitt, J., & Brinckloe, J. (1984). Jamie's turn. Milwaukee, WI: Raintree.

When Jamie's stepfather is seriously injured in a farm accident, Jamie, age 12, takes over all the chores on the farm. During the corn harvest, the neighbors work together and quickly get the job done. An excellent choice for children reading below grade level.

Dickmeyer, L., & Humphreys, M. (1984). Teamwork. New York: Franklin Watts.

The work involved in being a good team member is emphasized. For those who do not have special skills, a job well done means contributing what you can when you are needed, and being proud of your accomplishments.

Dillon, J. (1992). Jeb Scarecrow's pumpkin patch. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Jeb Scarecrow's main job is to keep the crows from eating the pumpkins before they are

purchased for Halloween. However, the crows have selected Jeb's patch for their big harvest celebration. He has to work hard and smart to develop a plan to save his pumpkin patch.

Drescher, J. (1981). I'm in charge. Boston: Little, Brown.

Father is upstairs working on an important paper, and he is to be called only in an emergency. The young boy has several tasks to complete as he is determined to do a good job being in charge of himself and the house. A good choice for students reading below grade level.

Drescher, J. (1987). Your doctor, my doctor. New York: Walker and Company.

The main emphasis is on educating students about various types of doctors, and many of their specific tasks are discussed. There are great illustrations showing doctors working with children.

Duczman, L., & Jones, B. (1977). The baby-sitter. Milwaukee: Raintree.

This book focuses on the insecurities a young boy experiences from having his first baby-sitter. It also highlights several fun activities conducted by the baby-sitter as she does her work of caring for the child.

Dunrea, O. (1995). The painter who loved chickens. New York: Harper Collins.

Even though the painter did not enjoy painting pictures of people and poodles, he continued to paint them because he needed to work to make a living. In his spare time he painted the animals he dearly loved—chickens. He finally got his big break and then he loved his work because he was able to paint only pictures of chickens.

Epstein, S., & Epstein, B. (1977). Mister Peale's mammoth. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan.

This is a true story of Charles Peale's recovery of a mammoth's bones on the Masten farm in New York state. It chronicles the hard work, from pumping water from the pit to restoration of a real skull. There are some great illustrations of people working.

Fadiman, C. (1959). The voyages of Ulysses. New York: Random House.

Students learn about Greek mythology while reading about the work that Ulysses performed on his voyages, from building a boat to leave the Calypso Island, to stringing his bow to reclaim his family and home.

Flemming, C. (1995). Women of the lights. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman.

This chronicle of the lives of women who lived and worked in lighthouses reveals the bravery and hard work needed to attend the lighthouse and save lives.

Florian, D. (1992). A chef. New York: Greenwillow.

This book demonstrates how different types of chefs work with food and describes some of the utensils they use. Other books in the How We Work series by Douglas Florian include An Auto Mechanic (1994) and A Fisher (1994).

Friedman, A., & Howard, K. (1994). Cloak for the dreamer. New York: Scholastic.

A tailor has two older sons who want to follow his trade. Misha, the youngest, dreams of traveling and making his own way in the world. The geometry of quilting (explained in the back) is involved in the test devised by the wise father to prove that the sons have all chosen careers that will suit them.

Gardner, J. (1976). Gudgekin: The thistle girl, and other tales. New York: Alfred E. Knopf.

In the title story, Gudgekin works at gathering thistle all day; yet it seems her stepmother is never satisfied. This fairy tale reveals that hard work and goodness eventually win out over evil.

Garner, A., & Hill, R. (1967). The old man of Mow. Garden City, New York: Doubleday.

Two boys begin their day by playing in the ruins of a castle in England. They decide to find the Old Man of Mow to help explain the writing on one of the stones they found. It is a difficult task and they get distracted, but work hard to complete their task. This is a pictorial story with few words.

Gessner, L., & Bock, W. (1977). Malcolm Yucca Seed. New York: Harvey House.

This wonderful story describes the struggles and work of a Navajo boy as he tries to fit back into his tribe after being at a white man's boarding school. As the result of working to find a way to feed his family after a flood, he finally gets his Navajo name.

Gibbons, G. (1987). Deadline! From news to newspaper. New York: Crowell.

Gail Gibbons, author of many excellent informational picture books, provides drawings that show how a newspaper is created in the course of a day and night. There is a history of newspapers in the back.

Gibbons, G. (1989). Marge's diner. New York: Crowell.

This enjoyable picture book details the daily life of a mother who runs a diner, where her family meets her for after-school snacks and dinners.

Giff, P. R., & McKeating, E. (1987). Laura Ingalls Wilder: Growing up in the little house. New York: Viking Kestrel.

In six chapters Giff tells of Wilder's farm life in Missouri, with flashbacks following the order in which she wrote the Little House novels based on her childhood on the frontier. The hardships of Wilder's life and her selections of stories to include in her books are discussed. The Women of Our Time series also includes a book on Mother Teresa.

Goffstein, M. B. (1970). Two piano tuners. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Mr. Weinstock cares for his granddaughter who lives with him, teaches her to tune pianos, and takes her to concerts. She believes she would rather be a piano tuner than a pianist. This short novel emphasizes that some people are best suited for the high profile jobs of performers while others will be happier doing important work like piano tuning.

Gray, L. M., & Rowland, F. (1993). Miss Tizzy. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Peculiar old Miss Tizzy works and plays each day of the week to amuse the children of the neighborhood, who in turn work each day to comfort her when she falls ill.

Greenburg, D., & Miller, W. (1991). Young Santa. New York: Penguin Group.

As the legend of Santa Claus unfolds, this story tells how the different tasks that young Santa undertakes eventually lead to the first delivery of gifts on Christmas. Although Santa realizes he is too young to have chosen a career, he certainly enjoys giving gifts to good little boys and girls.

Grifalconi, A. (1993). Kinda blue. Boston: Little Brown.

An African American child discovers that plants can be "kinda blue" just like she is sometimes. Told in the language and rhythms of the rural South, this picture book connects the loneliness of a small girl with the work of growing corn. Uncle Dan shows Sissy how the leafy stalks speak to him, how they all differ, and how they need water like people.

Hague, M., & Hague, K. (1981). The man who kept house. New York: Harcourt.

This is a colorful picture book retelling of the popular Scandinavian folktale about a man who believes his wife's life is easy until they exchange jobs for a day. After his wife rescues him

from a series of comical mishaps involving the housework, messy baby, and wayward domestic animals, the man becomes more courteous to women.

Haley, G. (1988). Jack and the fire dragon. New York: Crown.

Gail Haley created vivid paintings on wood for her retelling of this Appalachian Jack tale. While Jack and his brothers work to clear their land and build a cabin, Jack has to use his ingenuity to keep Old Fire Dragaman from eating their dinner. He also has to work hard to save three sisters and himself from the wicked Dragaman.

Henry, O. (1980). The last leaf. Mankato, MN: Creative Education.

When Johnsy lay dying, Mr. Behrman, a grumpy old man, worked through the night to paint his masterpiece of the last leaf to inspire her to live. Ironically, his gallant efforts resulted in his becoming ill with acute pneumonia.

Hines, A. G. (1986). Daddy makes the best spaghetti. New York: Clarion Books.

The importance of Daddy's work to keep the family running smoothly is illustrated. Work includes grocery shopping, cooking spaghetti, and bathing the children. The young son feels special as he gets to help prepare dinner. This book would be appropriate for children not reading at third grade level.

Hodges, S., & Hyman, T. S. (1990). The kitchen knight. New York: Holiday House.

This is a beautifully illustrated retelling of the Arthurian legend about young Sir Gareth. He asks for humble labor in King Arthur's kitchen, until it is time for him to undertake knightly adventures and reveal his identity as the king's nephew. Sir Lancelot, unlike rude Sir Kay, demonstrates the importance of being courteous to deserving, hard-working strangers.

Hopke, W. E., & Parramore, B. M. (1987). Children's dictionary of occupations. Bloomington, IL: Meridian Education.

There are approximately 300 jobs described and illustrated in this dictionary. In addition, suggested activities are listed for individuals and groups.

Houston, G., & Lamb, S. C. (1992). My great aunt Arizona. New York: HarperCollins.

Born in a meadow in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Arizona dreams of faraway places but she never leaves, except to become a teacher. This moving picture book describes Arizona sharing knowledge, hugs, and dreams of places she visits in her mind during fifty-seven years of teaching fourth grade.

Iverson, P., & Fujiwara, K. (1990). Carlos Montezuma. Milwaukee: Raintree.

This biography is about a Native American who worked hard to earn a college education and a medical degree. He became an important spokesman for the Yavapai Indians and made a difference in their lives.

Johnson, J. (1986). Police officers A to Z. New York: Walker.

Letters of the alphabet are illustrated by photographs and explanations of the police officer's training and jobs. For example, A, B, and C stand for Accident, Badge, and Crime. Fire Fighters A to Z is a similar picture book.

Kalman, B. (1995). How a book is made. New York: Crabtree.

The focus is on children as authors, schools with publishing programs, and the work of author and publisher Bobbie Kalman. There are sections called Teamwork, Brainstorming, Get the Facts, Rewriting, Editing, Designing,and Printing, plus advice for young authors, photographs, and a glossary.

Keats, E. J. (1965). John Henry: An American legend. New York: Knopf.

The classic legend of John Henry describes his birth, with a hammer in his hand, and his work on farms, in cotton fields, and on a river boat, all of which seem too tame for him. He puts his hammer and his strength to work laying the railroad tracks from the Atlantic to the Pacific. When steam drills threaten the workers' jobs, John wins a race with a steam drill but dies with his hammer in his hand.

Knowlton, J., & Barton, H. (1991). Books and libraries. New York: HarperCollins.

This illustrated book explains the origins of books and libraries from ancient times to the building of the Library of Congress, along with the related work of Americans like Benjamin Franklin, Melvil Dewey and Andrew Carnegie.

Kroeger, M. K., Borden, L., & Lewin, T. (1966). Paperboy. New York: Clarion.

In 1927 Cincinnati, Willie is proud to give his mother the small salary he earns while his friends play ball. Although Dempsey loses the big fight and Willie's papers don't sell that day, he gets a better job on a busy corner because he is prompt and he is a champion—he "works, win or lose."

Kurelek, W. (1974). Lumberjack. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

The author's paintings of Canadian lumber camps accompany his first-hand observations of

the life of a lumberjack.

Kurtz, J. (1994). Fire on the mountain. New York: Simon & Schuster.

In Kurtz's adaptation of an Ethiopian folktale, a humble young watcher of cows needs courage, honesty, and determination to gain a fortune for himself and his sister from a haughty rich man.

Kuskin, K., & Simont, M. (1982). The Philharmonic gets dressed. New York: Harper.

This amusing picture book shows 105 different musicians getting bathed and dressed on Friday night, leaving home, and beginning their work, which "is to play. Beautifully."

Lambert, D. (1984). The work of the wind. New York: The Bookwright Press.

This book shows that nature has important work to do, such as taking away heat from the desert, picking up moisture from the sea, and shaping rocks. However, some of its work results in harm to plants, animals, and land.

Larabee, L., & Sawyer, L. (1993). Grandmother five baskets. Tuscon, AZ: Harbinger House.

Several generations of Creek Indian women are depicted as a modern mother tells her daughter about her own youthful experiences while learning to make the five baskets that symbolize life. The young girl discovers that she can take pride in the hard work and self-discipline required to finish a project after distractions cause some delays.

Lasky, K., & Knight, C. G. (1980). The weaver's gift. New York: Frederick Warne.

Knight's photographs follow a real farm family in Vermont, showing the making of a child's blanket from the birth of lambs to the weaving process.

Lasky, K., & Knight, C. G. (1983). Sugaring time. New York: Macmillan.

This Newbery Honor book includes Knight's photographs of a farm family in Vermont working through the four-week process of collecting, boiling, preparing, and tasting syrup.

Lattimore, D. N. (1991). The sailor who captured the sea: A story of the Book of Kells. New York: HarperCollins.

Vivid designs and borders based on illuminations from the medieval Book of Kells adorn this fictional story of several brothers in 804 A. D. The youngest prefers other jobs besides art. After several adventures connected with the political struggles of ancient Ireland, he discovers that his love for the sea can be translated into beautiful art in the Book of Kells.

Lepscky, I., & Cardoni, P. (1982). Amadeus Mozart. New York: Barron's Educational Series.

This short, easy-to-read biography of Mozart focuses on his childhood years. It shows how hard he worked as a child, performing for kings and queens all over Europe. To him working hard to become a great composer and musician was fun.

Lewin, H., & Kopper, L. (1983). Jafta—the journey. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books.

Jafta and his mother travel from the South African countryside to the city where his father works. Although their journey is typical, it is not without its problems. People work together to overcome difficulties and to have a successful trip.

Lexau, J., & Wheatley, A. (1979). The spider makes a web. New York: Hastings House.

This wonderfully illustrated book not only depicts accurately the work of the spider making her web, but it also describes her daily tasks of getting food and staying safe.

Lobel, A. (1982). Ming Lo moves the mountain. New York: Greenwillow.

Ming Lo and his wife must move a mountain so that their home will be out of its dark shadow and free from falling rocks. In an amusing ending, their hard work pays off and they are satisfied that they have moved a mountain.

Lobel, A. (1990). Alison's zinnia. New York: Greenwillow.

Although this is an alphabet book, its brilliant flower paintings make it appropriate for any age. Each letter is associated with a flower which has some type of work being performed upon it, such as misting a Magnolia and raising a Rose.

Lyon, G. E., & Gammell, S. (1990). Come a tide. New York: Orchard.

After a girl's family and neighbors are flooded out of their Appalachian mountain homes, this colorful picture book shows how they "dug and scrubbed and hauled and crawled" to recover their possessions and clean up. Lyon's My Mother the Mail Carrier depicts a woman who has to defend her career.

Lyon, G. E., & Catalanotto, P. (1994). Mama is a miner. New York: Orchard Books.

This picture book in which a mother describes her job as a miner is a rare depiction of a mother with an unusual career.

Lyons, M. E. (1997). Catching the fire: Philip Simmons, blacksmith. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Photographs accompany this story of "the last African American blacksmith." The great-

grandson of slaves, Simmons is still working at 84, producing ornamental wrought-iron, and is truly "the working person's hero." Other volumes in Mary Lyons' series African-American Artists and Artisans include Stitching Stars: The Story Quilts of Harriet Powers (1993) and Painting Dreams: Minnie Evans, Visionary Artist (1996).

MacLachlan, P. (1985). Sarah, plain and tall. New York: HarperCollins.

In this wonderful short novel, Anna and her younger brother help introduce Sarah to the pleasures and the hard work of their life on a prairie farm. They hope Sarah, who misses her seaside home in Maine, will stay and marry their widowed father. In the sequel Skylark (1994), a drought tests Sarah's commitment to her adopted family.

Maury, I. (1976). My mother the mail carrier/Mi mama la cartera. Old Westbury, NY: Feminist Press.

Written in English and Spanish, this book depicts a five-year-old describing her mother's work as a mail carrier as well as the loving and close relationship they share.

McDonald, M., & Lewin, T. (1991). The potato man. New York: Orchard.

A child's grandfather tells of city people who fixed and sold things from carts in the past. The vegetable seller called Potato Man, who lost an eye in World War I, was treated cruelly by children in the street until the narrator of the story decided to trying helping him instead of taunting and taking from him.

Madden, D. (1993). The Wartville wizard. New York: Macmillan/Aladdin.

When an old man gets tired of picking up his neighbors' litter, he discovers he is given "the power over trash." People from all walks of life are embarrassed as their litter sticks to their bodies, so they all resolve to keep the town clean.

Mahy, M., & Craig, H. (1985). Jam. New York: The Atlantic Monthly Press.

Mrs. Castle gets a job as an atomic scientist and Mr. Castle decides to be a househusband. This is a charming account of Mr. Castle becoming such a good worker that he runs out of chores to do. He turns his attention to making plum jam, which results in many nightmares for the other members of the family.

Mahy, M., & Price, N. (1986). Mr. Rumfitt. Chicago: Children's Press International.

Mr. Rumfitt, an accountant, did not like the seasons because the changes made many things a mess and caused the world not to add up. However, as he works to get water and food, he

comes to understand the importance of the work that the seasons perform.

Maloney, F., & Gerald, C. (1986). I can be a reporter. Chicago: Children's Press.

This informative book features easy text, drawings, photographs, and vocabulary aids. Other volumes in this series explain jobs such as auto mechanic, carpenter, chef, electrician, secretary, truck driver, and welder.

Martin, Jr., B., & Egielski, R. (1996). "Fire! Fire!" said Mrs. McGuire. New York: Harcourt Brace.

Women performing many traditional and nontraditional jobs are the focus of this book. The story is based on a burning apartment building and the work of various people from newswoman to firewoman to policewoman to mother. Women from diverse backgrounds are illustrated in this colorful (and funny) pictorial story.

Mathieu, J. (1974). Big Joe's trailer truck. New York: Random House.

Students will learn about the life of a truck driver in this wonderfully illustrated book about Big Joe and his trailer truck. Not only does it give a 24-hour account of the life of a truck driver, but it shows the work of other people such as mechanics, dock loaders, and dispatchers.

Mayer, M. (1990). Just going to the dentist. Racine, WI: Western Publishing.

Not only will students learn what to expect from a visit to the dentist, but they can examine the many tasks that a dentist has to perform. Mercer Mayer's books are favorites with children K–3.

McKissack, P. (1985). Aztec Indians. Chicago: Children's Press.

The various work responsibilities of members of the Aztec tribe are discussed. They include building temples, mining precious metals, writing poetry, and farming.

McKissack, P., McKissack, F., & Ostendorf, E. (1991). Ida B. Wells-Barnett: A voice against violence. Hillside, NJ: Enslow Pub.

In this five-chapter biography in the Great African Americans series, a daughter of former slaves chose to stay in the South and fight for her rights. She taught and started a free paper in Memphis before going to New York. She met the President, opposed lynchings and the KKK, and helped children.

Meet the Author Series. New York: R. C. Owen Publishers.

These are short illustrated books in which individual authors of children's books describe their lives and work. For example, Jane Yolen, in A Letter from Phoenix Farm (1992), and Patricia Polacco, in Firetalking (1994),both describe how their daily lives and writing process are interwoven.

Mills, L. (1991). The rag coat. Boston: Little, Brown.

In this beautiful watercolor picture book, a poor mountain girl loses her loving father to miner's lung disease, but she can go to school after the "quilting mothers" in her community make her a coat of rags. When the other children laugh, she points out that stories from their families, as well as memories of her father, are stitched into her rag coat. This is a moving story about family love and neighborly cooperation overcoming economic hardship.

Mitchell, M. D. (1993). Uncle Jed's barbershop. New York: Simon and Schuster.

This story takes place in the American South during the 1920s. Because of segregation rules, Uncle Jed, the country's only African American barber, must travel to his customers. Uncle Jed's dream was to own a barbershop in town, but family responsibilities and economic realities delayed its realization. This story clearly illustrates the work ethic.

Morrow, M. F., & Broniskowski, K. (1990). Sarah Winnemucca. Milwaukee: Raintree.

One in the American Indian Stories series, this biography tells of a Paiute woman in Nevada who fought for justice and a better life, co-authoring a book on Paiute life and negotiating with whites in Washington, D. C.

Naylor, P. R. (1988). One of the third grade Thonkers. New York: Dell Yearling.

Jimmy's father is away from home for long periods of time, working at a difficult job on towboats that push river barges. Jimmy and his friend exclude his cousin David from their third grade club, the Thonkers. When their own fathers are missing and in danger on the river, they develop empathy for David, whose mother is having a serious operation. This well-written novel shows the importance of parents' work, family loyalty, and friendship.

Neff, F., & Reid, J. (1980). Running is for me. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications.

While following Stephie's hard work to become a competitive runner, students will learn about different types of running. There are great pictures accompanying the text showing Stephie's concentrated effort to become good enough to enter an upcoming event.

Parish, P., & Siebel, F. (1963). Amelia Bedelia. New York: HarperCollins.

In this easy-to-read book and its sequels, Amelia is a literal-minded maid who creates havoc by misinterpreting instructions. For example, she "dresses" the turkey for dinner in clothing. These books provide many laughs about a confused worker and good examples of word play.

Peeples, H. I., & Moran, M. (1989). Where does this come from? T-Shirt. New York: Calico/Contemporary Books.

This short illustrated book explains the origin of cotton and the manufacture of T-shirts. Others in the series tell where other popular products such as baseball bats come from.

Peet, B. (1989). Bill Peet: An autobiography. Boston: Houghton.

A popular picture book artist describes in some detail his life and work. He includes many amusing black and white drawings of his characters.

Phang, R., & Roth, S. L. (1986). We build a climber. New York: Atheneum.

Nancy the carpenter helps build a new climber in honor of her mother, a nursery school teacher who died. Nancy teaches the school children about her tools and building processes.

Pilkey, Dav. (1996). The paperboy. New York: Orchard.

In this 1997 Caldecott Honor book, an African American boy and his dog are happy delivering papers on cold mornings while the world sleeps.

Piper, W., & Sanderson, R. The little engine that could. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1976. (Original work published 1945)

Watty Piper's early childhood story of the small train engine that works hard and pants, "I think I can—I think I can," as it chugs up the slope, is remembered by an amazing number of older students and adults as an inspirational book about motivation and perseverance.

Polacco, P. (1990). Just plain Fancy. New York: Bantam, 1990.

Kaleb and his daughters in Lancaster, PA are shown doing farm work, building a barn, and riding their buggy. They worry about punitive Amish customs such as the shunning, but after their colorful peacock hatches, they learn to accept him and name him Fancy.

Polacco, P. (1990). Thunder cake. New York: Philomel/Putnam & Grosset.

A picture book about children keeping busy with Grandma during a storm details the process of making a cake.

Polacco, P. (1992). Chicken Sunday. New York: Philomel.

Children in an ethnically diverse neighborhood sell decorated eggs, with the help of a shopkeeper, in order to buy a beautiful Easter hat for Miss Eula, famous for her chicken dinners.

Politi, L. (1978). Mr. Fong's toy shop. New York: Charles Scribner's.

Mr. Fong tells children in Chinatown, Los Angeles about the legends and old customs of China. As he prepares a shadow puppet play for the Moon Festival, the legend and origin of shadow puppets are described in detail, illustrated with black and white drawings.

Potter, B. (1903). The tailor of Gloucester. London: Frederick Warne.

In one of Beatrix Potter's best-loved and most beautifully illustrated tales, an old tailor becomes too ill to finish the elaborate vest he is making for the mayor's wedding. An amusing group of mice secretly helps him complete the intricate embroidery. This story is similar to older folktales in which hard-working poor people prosper after receiving magical help, such as "The Elves and the Shoemaker" by the Grimm Brothers.

Ransom, C. F., & Root, K. B. (1995). When the whippoorwill calls. New York: Tambourine.

This picture book shows how a family in the Shenandoah Valley was displaced in the 1920s, forced to move to a neighboring valley. The father makes baskets to earn money.

Rathmann, P. (1995). Officer Buckle and Gloria. New York: Putnam's.

In this colorful winner of the 1996 Caldecott medal, school children ignore the local policeman's safety tips until Gloria, his new dog buddy, boosts his popularity when he speaks at schools. Safety tips are sprinkled throughout the book.

Ride, S., & Okie, S. (1986). To space and back. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Astronaut Sally Ride answers questions about living, working and walking in space. Photographs, drawings, and a glossary are included.

Ringgold, F. (1991). Tar beach. New York: Crown/Random House.

Artist Faith Ringgold transformed one of her story quilts into a Caldecott Honor book. Cassie's construction worker father helped build the George Washington Bridge, which opened the day she was born in 1931. When her family relaxes on the roof of their Harlem apartment building, Cassie fantasizes about flying and possessing the city, including the union that won't admit her mixed-race father. In the sequel, Aunt Harriet's Underground

Railroad in the Sky (1992), Cassie and her brother meet Harriet Tubman and various people who worked in secret to help slaves escape on the Underground Railroad.

Russell, W. (1994). Farmers. Vero Beach, FL: Rourke Press.

Photographs, simple text, and a short glossary explain farm work. The Discovery Library of Careers also includes short books on broadcasters, fishermen, pilots, truckers, and zookeepers.

Ryan, C., & Farnsworth, B. (1996). Sally Arnold. New York: Dutton.

Jenny helps out in her Grandpa's store, sweeping floors, arranging canned goods, and sampling the candy. She wonders whether Sally Arnold is a witch until she is caught spying on the woman who collects junk. Sally invites Jenny to her home and teaches her to make baskets from her collected materials. Jenny notes that, like a bluebird flying by with a string, Sally "gathers what she needs from what she finds and makes something new."

Rylant, C. (1996). Margaret, Frank and Andy: Three writers' stories. New York: Harcourt.

Writer Cynthia Rylant presents short sections on Margaret Wise Brown, L. Frank Baum, and E. B. White, with photographs and quotations from each author. Their emotional lives and gifts to the world are emphasized.

Rylant, C., & Catalanotto, P. (1992). An angel for Solomon Singer. New York: Orchard.

A waiter named Angel helps Solomon feel at home, although he dislikes living in a hotel for men in New York and misses rural Indiana. When Angel feeds him every night at the Westway Cafe, "where all your dreams come true," Solomon's dreams of his old and new homes become more positive.

Rylant, C., & Downing, J. (1989). Mr. Griggs' work. New York: Orchard.

Old Mr. Griggs loves his job at the post office so much that he dreams about it and feels like a dead letter when he has to stay home sick. The postal worker's responsibilities are listed within a heart-warming picture book story.

Rylant, C., & Szilagyi, M. (1984). This year's garden. New York: Bradbury.

The entire family participates in planting, harvesting, and canning. Even though there is a lot of waiting, the family looks forward to each new season. After harvest the neighbors gather and compare their gardens.

Saggs, H. W. F. (1965). Everyday life in Babylonia & Assyria. New York: Dorset Press.

Many aspects of work in the Mesopotamian civilizations are discussed in detail, such as learning to be a scribe after the development of writing, conducting religious ceremonies, irrigating fields, and attending school. Not only will students learn about a vital society, but they will learn how its greatness connects with work. This book is suitable for students reading above third grade or for teachers to read selected sections.

Scarry, R. (1978). Great steamboat mystery. New York: Random House.

Sam and Dudley must solve the mystery of the missing pearls. By being clever and outsmarting the thieves, they finally get the pearls—but only after several misadventures.

Schleifer, J. (1991). The work ethic. New York: Rosen.

The Values Library presents stories of many humble and famous workers, from early Puritan settlers and a grocer to celebrities such as Thomas Edison, Oprah Winfrey, Lee Iacocca, and Sam Walton. There is emphasis on family ties, education, how to overcome laziness, how to exercise your brain, and rewards beyond money. A glossary and bibliography are included.

Schwartz, D. M., & Kellogg, S. (1989). If you made a million. New York: Morrow.

Photographs of money and humorous drawings show kids earning cash. A wizard explains amounts of money, banking and interest, and silly purchases that are possible with huge sums. The book emphasizes that "enjoying your work is more important than money." Math skills and background information are also featured in this book and How Much Is a Million (1985).

Sheehan, N. (1979). The little red hen. New York: Dandelion Books.

This great traditional story shows the hard work of the Little Red Hen from the time she plants the seeds until she bakes the bread. She repeatedly asks for help, but no one will give her assistance—although everyone wants to share in the treat. Sheehan has wonderful illustrations of the various farm animals loafing while the hen works.

Simon, N., & Leder, D. (1980). I'm busy, too. New York: Macmillan/McGraw-Hill School Pub.

The simple text and illustrations show children of different ages and races and their families, getting ready for their busy day. The activities of preschool children and their teachers are compared with the work of parents, including mothers who are a dental assistant and a homemaker, and fathers who are a baker and a repair shop owner. This would be a good

book for student to read to younger children.

Smith, R.K. (1978). Chocolate fever. New York: Dell Publishing.

When Henry Green eats too much chocolate, he develops a strange disease—chocolate fever. This silly story takes Henry on a wild chase after running away from home. Several different types of workers are depicted performing various kinds of work, from storekeepers to doctors to truck drivers.

Spinner, S., & Miralles, J. (1993). Little Sure Shot: The story of Annie Oakley. New York: Random House.

This is a wonderful story about a girl who dared to be different in the early part of the nineteenth century. As an adult, Annie Oakley had a successful career as a sharpshooter and became famous in America and Europe. Her dedication to her work is a strong point in this book. It should be read by all third grade students.

Spyri, J. (1984). Heidi. New York: Knopf. (Original work published 1881)

In this classic Swiss novel, a small child learns to share in the daily work of her grandfather and Peter the goatherd, high in the Alps. As in The Secret Garden, the rural workers are healthier than the wealthy city folk. The hard work of learning to read is also described

Stanek, M., & Friedman, J. (1989). I speak English for my Mom. Niles, IL: Albert Whitman.

A child whose mother has a sewing job in a Chicago factory speaks English for her mother in stores, doctors' offices, and teacher conferences. Although Lupe sometimes gets tired of helping, she works hard to be successful, as her late father wanted. She helps her mother, who fears unemployment, with homework for her English classes.

Steig, W. (1976). Abel's island. New York: Farrar, Straus.

A spoiled mouse gentleman has to work hard to make a home and care for himself when he is stranded on an island for a year. He also discovers his love of nature and his avocation as a sculptor. This amusing chapter book with many illustrations makes a good introduction to other stories of characters who work hard to survive in an isolated environment, from Defoe's Robinson Crusoe to modern children's novels such as Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell, The Cay by Theodore Taylor, and Jean Craighead George's many adventure and mystery books about young people and the natural environment.

Steig, W. (1982). Doctor Desoto. New York: Farrar, Straus.

In one of William Steig's popular picture books, a mouse dentist and his wife assistant work together to help patients large and small. When they take the risk of treating a fox in great pain, they cleverly devise a trick to prevent him from eating them.

Steig, W. (1986). Brave Irene. New York: Farrar, Straus.

When her mother is sick, a dressmaker's daughter struggles through a storm to deliver a new dress to a duchess. Irene is then treated royally and spends a night at the palace.

Stevens, J. (1995). From words to pictures: A book about making a book. New York: Holiday House.

Illustrator Janet Stevens describes her job, as colorful creatures she imagines ask to be in a book. She explains the hard work of writing, designing, revising, completing art work and getting the book published.

Storr, C., & Goffe, T. (1987). Building a house. Morristown, NJ: Silver Burdett.

This Let's Read Together easy reader describes Grandma's process of building a house, actually a dollhouse, with a little help from Grandpa and items she finds around the house.

Taylor, G. (1995). Bears at work: A book of bearable jobs. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.

The simple text describes an alphabet of careers for bears, from adventurer to zookeeper. An interactive CD-ROM is available from Palladium Interactive, recommended for ages 3-8.

Towle, W., & Clay, W. (1993). The real McCoy: The life of an African-American inventor. New York: Scholastic.

Elijah McCoy, a successful African-American inventor in the mid 1800s, worked hard and created some highly demanded inventions such as an oil cup for trains, a lawn sprinkler, better rubber heels, and a portable ironing board. But he always had time for "young whippersnappers," welcomed them into his office, showed them his many inventions, and advised them to "Stay in school. Be progressive. Work hard." There is an interesting account of how the phrase "the real McCoy" originated. An excellent choice for students reading below third grade level.

Tucker, T., & Loehle, R. (1995). Brainstorm! The stories of twenty American kid inventors. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Bibliographical references and illustrations by Loehle accompany Tucker's discussions of the

ingenuity and hard work of real child inventors.

Turner, R. (1993). Portraits of women artists for children: Frida Kahlo . Boston: Little, Brown.

This volume tells the life of a Mexican painter. Other women artists featured in the series include Georgia O'Keefe (1991), Mary Cassatt (1992), and Rosa Bonheur (1991).

Waber, B. (1994). Lyle at the office. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

The popular alligator Lyle (whose mother works as a nurse) has amusing adventures exploring jobs in the city. When he visits Mr. Primm's office he examines many features of the building and the friendly workers' facilities and activities. The family takes various odd jobs after Mr. Primm is fired for refusing to let the boss exploit Lyle to advertise cereal, until Mr. Bigg rehires Mr. Primm and their friendships are renewed.

Walter, M. P., & Cummings, P. (1983). My mama needs me. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Pat Cummings won the Coretta Scott King award for illustrating this story about Jason, who wants to help his mother, but isn't sure that she needs him after she brings home a new baby from the hospital.

Waters, K., & Kendall, R. (1993). Samuel Eaton's day: A day in the life of a pilgrim boy. New York: Scholastic.

Samuel is excited about being old enough to help with his first harvest of the rye. But harvesting becomes more difficult than he had imagined. Even though his hands are blistered from the binding and he struggles not to weep, he completes his first day of work. An excellent pictorial re-creation of life in the 1600s.

White, E. B. (1980). Charlotte's web (3rd ed.). New York: HarperCollins.

This classic tale shows many aspects of rural work, but none as noble as Charlotte's work to save Wilbur's life. Although some third graders may struggle with this classic novel, it would certainly be appropriate for teachers to read aloud and discuss Charlotte's work.

Wilder, L. I. (1994). Little town on the prairie. New York: HarperCollins. (Original work published 1941)

Laura's training as a teacher is featured in this book. All of Wilder's Little House novels describe the hard work of frontier settlers in the late nineteenth century. Farmer Boy (1933) tells of the boyhood of Laura's husband on an Eastern farm.

Willard, N., & Lester, B. (1995). Gutenberg's gift: A book lover's pop-up book. Baltimore: Wild Honey.

In this elaborate pop-up book, Willard creates a story in verse about Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. When the job seems impossible, Gutenberg tells his apprentice, "Good work takes time."

Williams, S., & Byard, C. (1992). Working cotton. San Diego: Voyager Books.

In this picture book based on poems previously published by Sherley Williams, a young African American girl describes the daily events of her family's migrant life in the cotton fields of central California.

Wojciechowski, S., & Lynch, P. J. (1995). The Christmas miracle of Jonathan Toomey. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick.

A gloomy, mean widower is brought back to life as he makes a nativity set for a widow and her son, who also wants to be a woodcarver.

Yorinks, A., & Egielski, R. (1989). Oh, brother. New York: Farrar, Straus.

After losing their parents at sea, twin brothers are unsuccessful in their attempts to prosper in America because they can't get along. They are reformed by the love of an old tailor who teaches them his trade before he dies. Like other colorful picture books by Yorinks and Egielski, this tale contains odd and comical twists to the end.

Ziefert, H., & Lobel, A. (1986). A new coat for Anna. New York: Dragonfly/Knopf.

In World War II, a mother trades her jewels to pay for the wool, spinning, weaving and sewing of a new coat for her daughter. The tailor is proud of the red coat and a Christmas party is given for the workers.